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Mount Hood

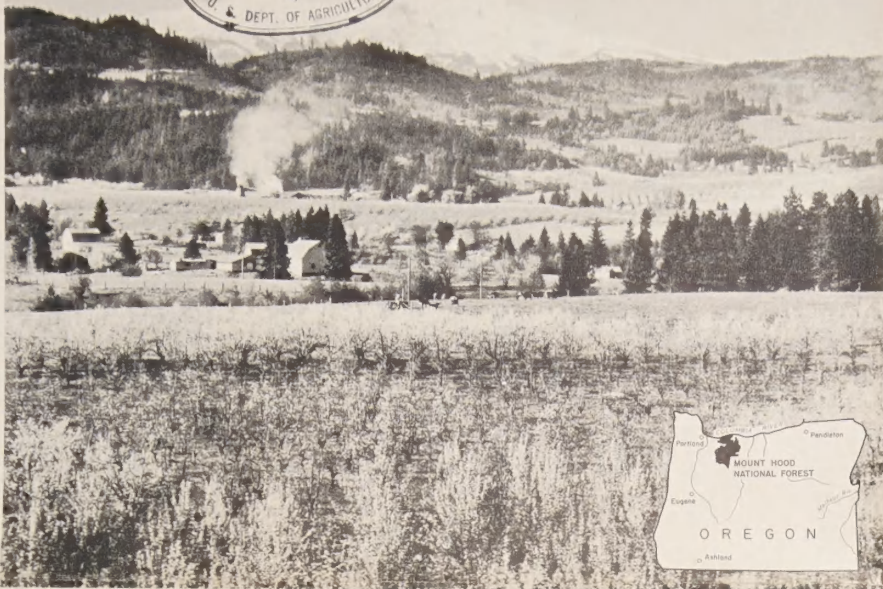
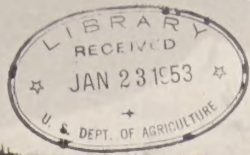
National Forest

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FOREST SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Pacific Northwest Region
July 1952



MOUNT HOOD NATIONAL FOREST is preeminently a "people's forest." Its water, soil, and vegetation form a trinity which has proved basic to the needs of people. Its 1,108,000 acres of national-forest land provide watershed protection, recreation, timber crops, livestock forage, and wildlife. Under Forest Service land-management policies, the forest supplies many products essential to an orderly and prosperous dependent population and contributes to the social and economic welfare of local communities, the State, and the Nation.

Mount Hood National Forest extends south from the Columbia River along the Cascade Range to Mt. Jefferson and the divide between the Clackamas and Santiam River Basins, and from the foothills east of Portland to the open plateau country of central Oregon. It takes its name from the central and dominant feature of the area, Mount Hood, which Lt. William R. Broughton of the British Navy named in honor of his patron, Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, during the early explorations of Pacific Northwest waters.

The Mount Hood and 150 other national forests in the United States, Alaska, and Puerto Rico are managed for the general public on a multiple-use basis. This means that the many resources of the forest land may be used in such a manner that maximum benefits result to the people. For instance, logging, taking water for domestic and industrial purposes, enjoying summer and winter forest recreation, grazing by domestic livestock, fishing and hunting, and many other activities can be carried on simultaneously with maximum yield of each assured through proper management.

Streams rising within the Mount Hood National Forest furnish more than 49,000,00 gallons of water daily to some 475,000 people for drinking and other domestic purposes. The cities of Portland, Oregon City, The Dalles, and Hood River, and several smaller towns depend entirely upon this forested area for their water. Water from lakes and streams within the forest is used to irrigate more than 40,000 acres on adjacent farm lands, which provide homes and livelihood for more than 7,000 persons on 1,800 farms. Electric power companies, using water from these same sources, develop a total of 91,000 kilowatts and supply electricity for light, cooking, and heating to some 60,500 homes. The well-being and safety of all these people depend on assured supplies of good water made possible by the control of fire and by logging and grazing practices that do not damage the soil.

The timber resource represents more than 24 billion board feet, comprising Douglas-fir, hemlock, noble and silver fir, ponderosa pine, and some minor species. Not all of this timber is available for cutting, however. Some areas are reserved for recreation and other purposes, and a few are too rough for logging. Cutting within the national forest has been relatively light, but is increasing rapidly. It is estimated that 250 million board feet per year can be cut without reducing the timber-growing capacity of the Mount Hood National Forest or interfering with other major uses. Such a harvest will make an important contribution to the industrial stability of nearby communities.

About 2,000 cattle from adjacent agricultural communities use the annual crop of forest grasses and other forage. The Forest Service in cooperation with rancher-users controls the number of stock on any one area so that overgrazing will not occur and cause serious erosion and invasion of undesirable forage species.



Beautiful Multnomah Falls, plunging a total of 620 feet in two drops, is one of many attractions found along the scenic Columbia River Highway. The area and Multnomah Falls Lodge, both donated to the Forest Service by the city of Portland in 1941, are privately operated under permit.

Twenty-five percent of the forest receipts from timber sales, grazing fees, and other resources are returned to the State for distribution to the counties in which the forest lies, to be used for roads and schools. In addition, 10 percent of the receipts are used for forest roads and trails.

The Mount Hood National Forest provides excellent habitat, food, and cover for a balanced wildlife population which has a high recreational and aesthetic value. Annually about 50,000 fishermen and 6,000 hunters come to the forest to harvest the surplus crop of fish and game. Among the larger game animals sought are Columbia black-tailed, white-tailed, and mule deer; Roosevelt elk; and black bear. Predators such as the cougar, wildcat, wolf, and coyote are also found here. Fur bearers include such species as red fox, marten, mink, badger, ermine, otter, skunk, raccoon, and muskrat. In addition there are many game and song birds. Fishing for cut-throat and rainbow trout in the mountain lakes and streams is usually good. Some nationally known fishing waters are found on the forest. These include the Clackamas, Sandy, and Hood Rivers. Hunting and fishing regulations are set by the State Game Commission, and sportsmen desiring to hunt or fish should check the regulations carefully.

Recreation use in both summer and winter is heavy on the Mount Hood Forest, and has an important place in management planning. About one and one-half million recreation seekers either visit or pass through the forest annually. If they wish to camp or picnic, natural sylvan areas are available to them in public camp grounds. Devotees of skiing may enjoy nationally known slopes that have been developed for their use during the last 25 years.

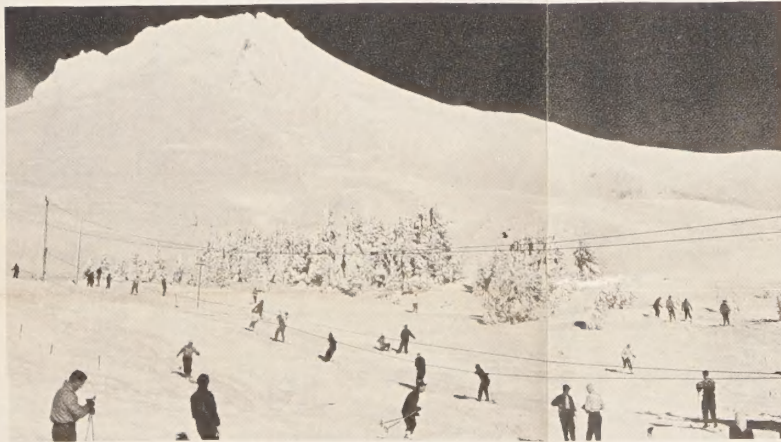
Resorts, developed by both public and private funds, are located within the forest. Timberline Lodge, high on the slopes of Mt. Hood, is probably the most widely known. All resorts on national-forest land are privately operated under permit from the Forest Service.

In addition to the heavily used areas with their roads, trails, and recreation facilities, there are vast expanses of wilderness country which are preserved in their natural state for the enjoyment of nature lovers, and used extensively by hikers and other forest travelers who want to get off the beaten track. Roads, buildings, and other developments are not permitted in wilderness areas; here, one can travel in them only afoot or on horseback. Hunting and fishing in season is permissible unless expressly forbidden by State law.

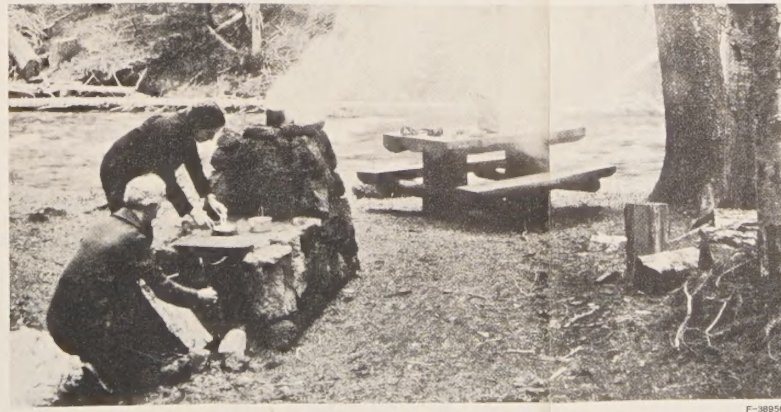
The greatest single danger to the forest is fire. Not only is there an immediate loss of valuable timber, but the productivity of the soil can be lessened for many years or even destroyed in some cases. You can help guard forests from fire by encouraging others to follow your example of good woodsmanship in keeping campfires under control and by reporting forest fires to the nearest ranger. District rangers are located at Dufur, Zigzag, Estacada, Cascade Locks, Parkdale, Bear Springs, and Oak Grove.

Forest visitors should build warming fires and campfires only in safe places and be sure to put them dead out before leaving. Don't smoke while traveling through the forest. Instead, stop in an open area and crush your cigarette or cigar butt or pipe heel into mineral soil before moving on.

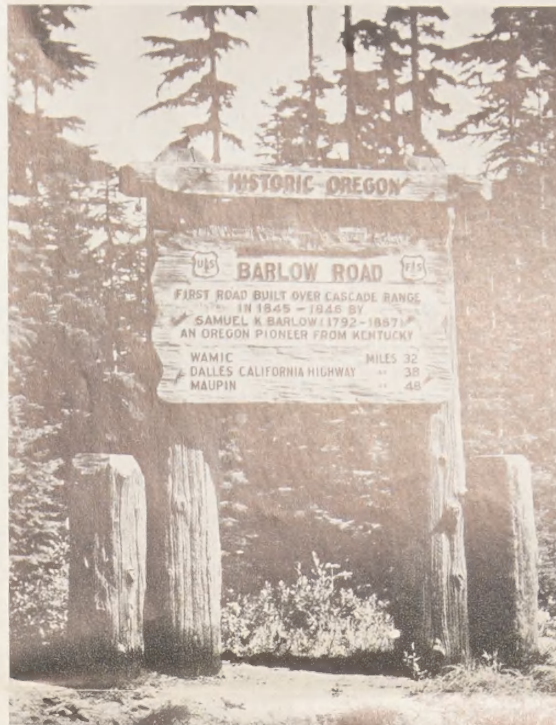
Further information about the Mount Hood National Forest can be obtained by writing the Forest Supervisor, P. O. Box 5241, Portland 16, Ore. For information on other national forests in Oregon and Washington, write to the Regional Forester, P. O. Box 4137, Portland 8, Ore.



Annually, thousands of winter recreation enthusiasts visit the broad slopes of famous Mount Hood to ski, toboggan, take photographs, and otherwise enjoy themselves in the snow. Recreation is an important national-forest resource.



In summer the cool and quiet of the forest beckons to those who seek outdoor recreation. Many developed camp and picnic areas and several resorts are located on the Mount Hood National Forest to serve the general public.



Raw material for huckleberry pies is found in abundance on the slopes immediately south of Mount Hood. Although considered a minor product, huckleberries attract thousands of persons late each summer. The gathering of other minor products such as mushrooms is also increasing in popularity.



Wildlife is an important resource of the forest. It also must depend on forest products for its continued existence.



Fire is one of the greatest dangers to forest lands. It not only destroys timber and other ground cover, but also results in the loss of soil, wildlife, and a regular flow of clear water. This look-out tower at the summit of Larch Mountain is one of several standing guard over the resources of the forest during the fire season. You can help by being careful with fire in the woods and reporting fires to the nearest forest ranger.



Timber production of the Mount Hood National Forest is planned to yield more than 250 million board feet of saw timber annually. Continuous employment in logging, manufacturing, and dependent industries is essential to a well-balanced economy.



Logs at rest in their journey between the headwaters of this river and the manufacturing plant. Brought to this point by motor truck, the logs are gathered into rafts to finish their journey to local mills. Silt-free rivers with clear channels also are a product of the forest.



Stable soil, a continued water supply, and adequate ground cover provide products of value to man. Forage from a mountain meadow here is being used in the first step toward beefsteak, shoes, and billfolds.

